

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

## ONE AMERICAN LOST IN WRECK OF BRITISH SHIP

**Channel Steamer Sussex is Torn by Explosion and Many of Crew Are Reported Killed--Towed to Boulogne in Sinking Condition.**

**Cause of Disaster is Undetermined, but French Report Says That Ship Was Torpedoed--American Girl is Badly Hurt in Explosion.**

London, March 25.—Information obtained from passengers on the channel steamer Sussex, damaged by an explosion yesterday afternoon on the way from Folkestone to Dieppe, indicates there may have been considerable loss of life.

One American is missing and is supposed to have been lost. Another was seriously injured. Several Americans were rescued.

Opinion of passengers of the Sussex is divided as to whether the vessel was damaged by a mine or a torpedo. The explosion occurred just ahead of the captain's bridge and tore the front part of the steamer to pieces, killing or injuring a number of persons. Many were wounded severely by flying splinters.

The Admiralty states that 250 survivors have been landed in France and between 90 and 100 at Dover. As there were 386 passengers and about 50 men in the crew, 75 or more persons are still missing.

Miss Baldwin, daughter of a prominent American resident of Paris, was injured seriously on the Sussex. Miss Baldwin's father and mother also were on board the vessel. All have been taken to Boulogne. In addition to other injuries, Miss Baldwin's leg was broken. Miss Alice Ruiz, of Colorado, and Wilder G. Penfield, of Merton College, Oxford, are other Americans who were saved.

Edward Huxley, president of the United States Rubber Export Co., and Francis E. Drake, European manager of the company, are among the Americans rescued from the Sussex. They report that there was a heavy loss of life, including probably several Americans.

The chief engineer of the Sussex was killed by the explosion and that the purser was wounded seriously. An American whose name is not known to survivors who have reached London, was talking with the Baldwin family, close to the captain of the ship during the explosion. He has not been seen since that time and is supposed to have been lost.

The explosion occurred at about 2 p. m., when the Sussex was an hour and a half out of Folkestone.

A number of Americans cross the channel by almost every passenger steamer, most of them on business. Bookings are not made in advance for particular steamers. Passengers having passports enroute at London and their names are taken when they go aboard steamers. A large number of Americans obtained permits to go to France during the last week and it is a virtual certainty that a number of them were on the Sussex. The Sussex carried 12 lifeboats and several rafts. The lifeboats were loaded quickly after the explosion.

Cool discipline was maintained, although there was some scrambling for the boats.

The second boat which was lowered containing 40 persons, was overturned. Passengers state that 30 of those in this boat were drowned.

A number of the passengers jumped overboard. Gratings and pieces of furniture were thrown away by the explosion. More than half of those who leaped into the water are believed to have lost their lives. There were 270 women and children on the vessel.

The forecast and wireless apparatus were blown away by the explosion. The wireless operator attempted unsuccessfully to rig a substitute.

A sailing vessel appeared on the horizon soon after the explosion, but failed to answer signals of distress.

For some time the Sussex drifted about. Her pumps were kept working and little water was taken. A man named Edward Marshall, believed to be the well known syndicate writer

(Continued on Page 2.)

## THIRTEEN AMERICANS ABOARD ILL-FATED CHANNEL STEAMER

Thirteen Americans were aboard the channel steamer Sussex, damaged by an explosion yesterday while on the way from Folkestone to Dieppe. Whether the ship was torpedoed is as yet undetermined.

One American, Edward Huxley, is missing, and another has been seriously hurt. The other Americans were rescued unhurt, it is reported.

The Americans aboard the ship were: J. N. Baldwin, 55; Helen Baldwin, 51; Elizabeth Baldwin, 24; Gertrude Barnes, 33; Charles T. Crocker, 20; Samuel Bemis, 24; Henry Deer, 55; Ida Deer, Lillian C. S. Harde, 45; Edna S. Harde, 41; Edward Huxley; Dorothy Phipps Hilton, 37; Edna Frances Hilton.

## 4 AMERICANS ABOARD TORPEDOED HORSE SHIP ARE REPORTED MISSING

Washington, March 25.—Consular reports to the state department today say the Dominion line steamer Enkishman, sunk near the British Isles, was torpedoed and that four Americans are missing. The Englishman was a horse ship.

The missing Americans are Peter McDonald, a horse foreman of 58 Cherry street, Boston; George McDonald, a trimmer, of 57 Common street, Lawrence, Mass.; P. Buckley

and M. A. Burke, addresses unknown. The despatches to the state department were from American Consul Armstrong at Bristol, and said the Englishman was torpedoed at an unknown place and time and that 28 survivors had been brought into an unnamed British port. The consul also reported that 60 more persons who were aboard the ship were believed by the British authorities to have been saved.

## BOTH VESSELS LOST AS ARMED BRITISH LINER MEETS GERMAN RAIDER

London, March 25.—A German raider has been sunk in the North Sea. Five German officers and 115 men, out of a total of 300, were captured. The British liner, the Greif, was herself sunk.

The following official statement was issued: "An engagement occurred on Feb. 29 in the North Sea between the armed German raider Greif, disguised as a Norwegian merchant vessel, and the British armed merchant cruiser Alcantara, Captain T. E. Wardle. It resulted in the loss of both vessels, the German raider being sunk by gunfire and the Alcantara apparently by a torpedo.

The British losses were made up of five officers and 68 men.

The Greif was a large liner belonging to the Royal Mail Steam Packet company of Belfast. She had been in the service of the British government for some time. Her gross tonnage was 15,300. She was 570 feet long and was built in Glasgow in 1913.

"Five German officials and 115 men were picked up and taken prisoners out of the total complement, believed to have been over 300. It should be noted that during the whole engagement the enemy fired over the Norwegian colors painted on the side of the ship.

"This news is now published as it is made clear by the receipt of a German wireless message that the enemy has learned that the Greif, a similar ship to the Moewa, had been destroyed before she succeeded in passing our line of patrols."

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## FIND BODY OF YOUTH HANGING IN DENSE WOOD

Woodmont, March 25.—While trailing a fox through a lonely wood, between the Pond point and Woodmont roads this morning, Harry Rogers of Burwell's Beach came upon the hanging body of a young man.

The body was suspended from a limb of a tree by a twisted shirt tied to a necktie. A green hat lay on the snow near the tree.

Medical Examiner W. J. H. Fischer of Milford was called, and the body was taken down. He said the apparent solution of the case was self-inflicted strangulation. The body had been hanging nearly a week.

Undertaker George J. Smith took charge of the body and it lies at his morgue in Milford.

Nothing could be found this afternoon to establish an identification. In one of the pockets was a handkerchief bearing the letter "K."

The man was scarcely 25. He wore a grey suit of excellent material, a green hat, black shoes and a tan necktie with black stripes. He was five feet eight inches in height and weighed about 150 pounds.

The place in which the body was found is scarcely ever visited, except by persons tracking rabbits or other animals.

It was thought in Bridgeport that the body might be that of William Higgins, who disappeared, but the description of the clothing worn by Higgins when he was last seen, doesn't tally with that on the body. The suit of clothes bears a Chicago trademark.

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## FORMER JUDGE ARRAGNS CITY COURT METHODS

Thomas C. Coughlin Tells Judge Bartlett How To Run the Tribunal

"WHY SINGLE OUT JITNEURS?" HE ASKS

Police Not On Their Job, Declares Former Commissioner in Court.

That justice was not being properly meted out in city court, that a city ordinance is a farce, that jitneurs are being made "coats" of and that the police department is not doing what they are getting paid to do, was the scathing arraignment made of the court officials, and the police department in general, by Thomas C. Coughlin, former city court judge, when defendant N. Hansen, of Devon, drivers arraigned before Judge Frederic A. Bartlett in city court this morning. Judge Coughlin also is a former police commissioner.

Nine jitneys driven by Hansen were arraigned on a charge of violating the city ordinance relative to allowing passengers to ride on the door of jitneys. They were fined \$2 each without costs.

Previous to the arraignment of the jitneys two cases had been disposed of by the court, in a manner that met with the disapproval of Judge Coughlin. One of the cases was that of Raymond N. Hansen, of Devon, Milford. Hansen was arrested March 17, on a charge of reckless driving after he had struck a colored man at Stratford and Central avenues. Hansen was also charged with operating a motor vehicle without having a license.

Hansen said he had applied for a license for 1916. Prosecutor Earle E. Garlick communicated with the secretary of State, Burrows, and the latter informed Garlick that Hansen had not applied for a license for the ensuing year. When informed of this Hansen admitted in city court today that he had not sent the money for the license until a few hours after he had been arrested. He received his license two days after being arrested. His case was nolleed on payment of costs.

The other case was that of John Rowe, of Stratford, who was charged with assaulting Luther Majorian, 123 Middle street, a jitneur. The trio are alleged to have assaulted the jitneur at Stratford, in the office of the commissioner of bureau of labor statistics. The appointment will be effective May 1 and is for two years at a salary of \$2,000 per year. Until a short time ago Senator O'Connell engaged in the meat and grocery business in the North End. Later he has been employed by the Cudahy Co. He is now taking the place of Deputy Patrick O'Brien who is ill with pneumonia.

Senator John M. O'Connell who is now acting as deputy jailer at Bridgeport jail will be appointed to a clerkship in the office of the commissioner of bureau of labor statistics. The appointment will be effective May 1 and is for two years at a salary of \$2,000 per year. Until a short time ago Senator O'Connell engaged in the meat and grocery business in the North End. Later he has been employed by the Cudahy Co. He is now taking the place of Deputy Patrick O'Brien who is ill with pneumonia.

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## VERDUN IS IN FLAMES

Berlin, March 25.—Verdun is in flames, according to an official announcement today from the War Office.

The extent of the conflagration is not known. The fire was started, according to the War Office announcement, by German shells during a heavy artillery duel this morning.

The only mention of the burning of Verdun is contained in this brief announcement: "In the Meuse district, artillery duels were especially lively and in the course of these engagements Verdun was set on fire."

No Confirmation in Paris.

Paris, March 25.—No mention is made in today's official statement of the reported firing of Verdun by German shells. The war office announcement says that, aside artillery duels in the Woivre region, "the night was quiet in the Verdun region."

GERMANS FALL BACK BEFORE RUSSIAN DRIVE

Berlin, March 25.—Military activity on the northern sector of the eastern battle front continues despite alternating rain and snow.

Russian drumfire was heavy on the night of March 23 and in the early morning of March 24 between the Narocz and Winiw lakes and it was particularly heavy just southward of Narocz lake, where the German line ran from Bilsniki to Mokrysa, thence westward.

The Russians directed their main attack against this small salient with a harassing concentric fire and the Germans drew back to their second line at a point of 5,000 feet, falling into Lake Doiran.

## O'CONNELL GETS CLERICAL JOB IN HARTFORD OFFICE

Will Be Named To Take Place In Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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## DEMOCRATS OF STATE TO MEET MAY 9 AND 10

New Haven, March 25.—The Democratic state convention will be held in this city, in Music hall, on May 9 and 10. The official call will be sent out on Monday by Secretary P. E. O'Sullivan, of the state central committee. The convention will choose 14 delegates to the national convention and 14 alternates.

Pickpocket Gets \$110 In Pieces of Gold From Davey

Samuel Davey, father of the orchestra leader of the same name at Poli's theatre, came to this city today on a visit. He carried \$110 in a purse. It was also in the pocket of a witness witnessing a performance at the theatre and riding to the East End, where his son lives, he found his pocket had been picked.

MRS. A. W. ROBINSON PLANS TO RETURN TO ENGLAND WITH HUSBAND

Mrs. Arthur W. Robinson, wife of one of the leading officials of the Locomobile Co., appeared at the office of Naturalization Clerk Flanagan today to apply for a passport. She and her husband expect to sail for England soon. Mr. Robinson has been representing the Locomobile Co. in England and with his wife will take a trip to London on business.

NEW HAVEN ACTOR COMMITS SUICIDE

New Haven, March 25.—William E. Bonney, a member of the stock company which has been playing at the Hyperion theatre for several seasons, took his life today. He had been in the theatre for several days and confined to his room. Today he was found dead in bed. Medical Examiner Scarborough decided that he had died from the use of a narcotic drug intentionally taken in a quantity sufficient to cause death. Mr. Bonney was widely known in the theatrical profession and as a member of traveling companies in years past he had played in every part of the United States.

## BANDIT ELUDES ENEMY

Villa Reported to Have Successfully Escaped From Encircling Net of Joint Forces and is in Retreat.

Fleeing Towards West, Report to Headquarters—More Troops Are Sent to Guard Border Towns.

El Paso, March 25.—Francisco Villa was reported early today to be fleeing west in the San Miguel country, having successfully eluded the net that was being drawn around him by American and Carranza troops. News of the outlaw's retreat westward was brought here from El Valle but could not be confirmed at Bliss or in Mexican official circles.

General Manuel Medina y Nieto and General Manuel Banda, two former Villa officers who were taken into custody here a few days ago, have disappeared from the El Paso jail and are understood to be on their way to New Orleans.

In answer to protests from residents at Presidio, Marfa and Del Rio, Texas, for more protection, Major General Funston today announced that a battalion of the 24th Infantry, now on the way here from Fort Russell, will be stationed in that district.

MAY ASK MORE TROOPS.

Washington, March 25.—Unsettled over the situation on the Mexican border, Senate Republicans today held a conference with a view to determining upon a plan for asking for more troops to protect the border. The conference adjourned until Monday without action.

CARRANZA MUNITIONS, HELD UP; GO FORWARD